

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electronic business transaction assisting method which uses a memory that stores actual delivery times of a plurality of commodities comprising:

receiving a desired delivery time;

5 selecting at least one of the plurality of commodities on the basis of the actual delivery times of the plurality of commodities stored in the memory and the input desired delivery time if the at least one of the plurality of commodities meets the desired delivery time; and

providing a result of the selection made.

10 2. The electronic business transaction assisting method according to claim 1, further comprising providing data for displaying information relating to the at least one of the commodities which is selected.

15 3. The electronic business transaction assisting method according to claim 1, further comprising providing data for displaying a first set of information relating to the at least one of the commodities which has been selected, and a second set of information relating to at least one of the commodities which has not been selected, such that the first and second sets of information are distinguishable from each other.

20 4. The electronic business transaction assisting method according to claim 1, further comprising receiving from a user terminal a purchase order for purchasing at least one of the commodities which has been selected.

25 5. The electronic business transaction assisting method according to claim 4, wherein when the purchase order is for purchasing a plurality of commodities, and further comprising receiving from the user terminal information indicative of whether the plurality of commodities to be purchased should be delivered at respective delivery times or at one delivery time.

30 6. A server comprising:

a memory that stores data indicative of an actual delivery time of each of a plurality of commodities; and

a controller that receives data indicative of a desired delivery time, selects at least one of the plurality of commodities on the basis of the actual delivery times of the plurality of the commodities stored in the memory and the desired delivery time if the at least one of the plurality of commodities meets the desired delivery time, and provides a result of the at least one selection made.

7. The server according to claim 6, wherein the controller provides data for displaying information relating to the at least one of the selected commodities.

8. The server according to claim 6, wherein the controller provides data for displaying a first set of information relating to the at least one of the commodities, and a second set of information relating to at least one of the commodities which has not been selected, such that the first and second sets of information are distinguishable from each other.

9. The server according to claim 6, wherein the controller further receives from a user terminal a purchase order for purchasing at least one of the commodities which has been selected.

10. The server according to claim 9, wherein when the purchase order is for purchasing a plurality of commodities, the controller receives from the user terminal information indicative of whether the plurality of commodities to be purchased should be delivered at respective delivery times or at one delivery time.

11. A server that communicates with a user terminal through a communication network, for assisting a user of the user terminal in making a decision regarding a purchase of commodities, the server comprising:

a memory that stores data indicative of an actual delivery time of each of a plurality of commodities of different kinds; and

20 a controller that receives inquiry data indicative of a desired delivery time, searches through the memory based on the actual delivery time of each commodity stored in the memory and the desired delivery time for selecting at least one of the plurality of commodities if the at least one of the plurality of commodities meets the desired delivery time, and provides a result of the search.

25 12. A server comprising:

a memory that stores commodity data including actual delivery times of commodities;

a controller that receives from a user terminal inquiry data including a desired delivery time of each of at least one commodity and selects a portion of a commodity stored in the memory based on the inquiry data received from the user terminal that includes the desired delivery time if the portion of the commodity meets the desired delivery time; and

30 a transmitter that transmits to the user terminal the portion of the commodity data which has been selected.

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13. The server according to claim 12, wherein the portion of the commodity data transmitted by the transmitter includes a name of a commodity which meets the desired delivery time of each of the at least one commodity and the actual delivery times of commodities stored in the memory.

5 14. The server according to claim 12, wherein the controller further receives from the user a purchase order for purchasing at least one of the commodities included in the portion of the commodity data, which is selected at the user terminal.

10 15. The server according to claim 12, wherein the controller further processes the commodity data such that the portion of the commodity data which has been selected and a remaining portion of the commodity data which has not been selected are distinguishable from each other, and

wherein the transmitter transmits to the user terminal the commodity data that was processed.

15 16. An electronic business transaction assisting system comprising:
a memory that stores data indicative of an actual delivery time of each of a plurality of commodities;

a desired-delivery inputting portion that inputs data indicative of a desired delivery time; and

20 20 21. a controller that selects at least one of the commodities which meets the desired delivery time on the basis of the actual delivery times of the commodities stored in the memory and the desired delivery time input by the desired-delivery inputting portion if the at least one of the plurality of commodities meets the desired delivery time, and provides a result of selection made by the commodity selecting portion.

25 25 26. 17. A computer program for a electronic business transaction assisting system comprising:

a first instruction that stores in a memory data indicative of an actual delivery time of each of a plurality of commodities; and

30 30 31. a second instruction that allows the computer program to receive data indicative of a desired delivery time, select at least one of the plurality of commodities on the basis of the actual delivery times of the plurality of the commodities stored in the memory and the received desired delivery time if the at least one of the plurality of commodities meets the desired delivery time, and provides a result of the at least one selection made.

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18. A recording medium for a electronic business transaction assisting system, the recording medium including computer-readable instructions comprising:

a first instruction to store in a memory data indicative of an actual delivery time of each of a plurality of commodities; and

5 a second instruction to allow a controller to receive data indicative of a desired delivery time, select at least one of the plurality of commodities on the basis of the actual delivery times of the plurality of the commodities stored in the memory and the received desired delivery time if the at least one of the plurality of commodities meets the desired delivery time, and provides a result of the at least one selection made.

10 19. A computer program for a electronic business transaction assisting system which uses a memory that stores actual delivery times of a plurality of commodities comprising:

a first instruction that allows the computer program to receive data indicative of a desired delivery time, select at least one of the plurality of commodities on the basis of the actual delivery times of the plurality of the commodities stored in the memory and the received desired delivery time if the at least one of the plurality of commodities meets the desired delivery time and;

a second instruction that allows the computer program to provide a result of the at least one selection made.

20. A recording medium for a electronic business transaction assisting system which uses a memory that stores actual delivery times of a plurality of commodities comprising:

a first instruction to allow a controller to receive data indicative of a desired delivery time, select at least one of the plurality of commodities on the basis of the actual delivery times of the plurality of the commodities stored in the memory and the received desired delivery time if the at least one of the plurality of commodities meets the desired delivery time and;

a second instruction to allow the controller to provide a result of the at least one selection made.

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